

Abstract of the Invention

[0054] A conformable surfacing veil having an improved soft feel is formed by admixing a thermoplastic sheath-core bicomponent fiber with a regularly or irregularly shaped structural fiber to form a core composition for the mat. The bicomponent fiber is formed from a core material and a sheath material. Suitable core material include thermoplastic polymers such as polyethylene terephthalate that have a higher melting point than the sheath like polymer. Suitable sheath materials include polyethylene, polypropylene, and copolyesters having softening points lower than the core material. Thus, when the mixture of structural fibers and bicomponent fibers is heated above the softening point of the sheath materials, the bicomponent fiber will fuse to the structural fibers. The surfacing veils can then be laminated to other reinforcing mats for use as a reinforcement for plastic articles.